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The Italian Army in 1916 strengthened its heavy artillery considerably by the withdrawal of siege guns *Austrian* from their coast and inland fortifications.
artillery a But many of the patterns were obsolete.
substitute for The range and mechanism were not equal *morale* to perfect weapons turned out by Skoda, and such as they were, there was not enough ammunition to keep up a prolonged bombardment of successive positions. The Austrians therefore always experienced a sense of mechanical superiority which sustained their morale. But supposing the position were reversed, and the advantage in artillery were transferred to the Italians, would the unwilling soldiers of the " ramshackle empire " follow the example of the Germans, French and British on the Western Front and lie for hours and days in muddy shell holes to defend their battered defences ? I felt confident they would not. Their devotion to the Austrian Empire was not equal to that display of sustained heroism. The pluck of the Croatian and the Czech had been proved in the wars of many centuries, but their hearts were not in this conflict, and it is the heart that gives constancy as well as ardour to courage.

Had the Austrians been beaten on the Italian Front it would have been imperative for them to withdraw several divisions and batteries from their *Probable effects* Eastern Front. The Germans would there-

Success ? fore have to extend and thus weaken their

lines on the same front. That would have eased the position for the hard-pressed Russians and Roumanians and would have given them time to reform and recover their fighting strength. In the alternative the Germans would have withdrawn divisions from France and made a break-through on that front a more feasible operation.